

Orkney; Capt. A. E. St. Vincent Pollard, Border Regt., Royal Military College, Camberley, Surrey; Harold Schwann, 4 Princes Gardens, S.W., and Lionel E. Taylor, Irene District, Pretoria, Transvaal.

Mr. John Macoun, M.A., F.R.S.C., Naturalist to the Geological Survey of Canada, Ottawa, and Mr. Alfred D. Millar, 298 Smith Street, Durban, Natal, were elected Colonial Members; and Mr. Harry C. Oberholser, of the Biological Survey, Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C., was elected a Foreign Member.

After a vote of thanks to the Council of the Zoological Society of London for the use of their rooms had been unanimously agreed to, the Meeting adjourned.

XXXI.—*Notices of recent Ornithological Publications.*

[Continued from p. 286.]

60. *Alphéraky on Palæarctic Geese.*

[The Geese of Europe and Asia, being the Description of most of the Old World Species. By Sergius Alphéraky. With Twenty-four coloured Plates by F. W. Frohawk, and Frontispiece by Dr. P. P. Sushkin. 4to. 198 pp. London: Rowland Ward, Ltd., 1905. Price £3 3s.]

This translation of M. Alphéraky's "*Gusi Rossii*," published in Russia in 1904, will be very acceptable to the many students of Palæarctic birds who are not able to comprehend the language in which the original was issued.

M. Alphéraky's general arrangement of the Palæarctic Geese does not deviate much from that of Count Salvadori published in the twenty-seventh volume of the 'Catalogue of Birds.' But he uses many more generic names and introduces us to several species not generally recognised.

The series is commenced with the Snow-Geese (*Chen*), of which two Palæarctic species (*Chen nivalis* and *C. hyperboreus*), differing only in size, are somewhat doubtfully allowed. Then follows the Emperor Goose (*Philacte canagica*), well known in Alaska, which occurs in the extreme east of Northern Asia. The genus *Anser* comes next; but

this term is confined to the Grey-Lag and two White-fronted Geese, while the rest of the species generally referred to *Anser* are placed in Buturlin's new genus "*Melanonyx*," instituted in 1901. Amongst these are three species—*M. neglectus*, *M. carneirostris*, and *M. mentalis*—which seem to require further study and confirmation. Altogether eight species and subspecies are assigned to *Melanonyx*, while the Bar-headed Goose (*Anser indicus*) is isolated as *Eulabeia*. We cannot say that, in our opinion, sufficient reasons are given for thus separating the genus *Anser* into several genera.

The Brents and Bernacles, which appear to form a very natural group, are treated in a similar way, and subdivided into four genera—*Rufibranta*, *Branta*, *Leucoblepharon*, and *Leucopareia*; while the series terminates with *Cygnopsis*, which certainly has some claims to stand apart, though we should consider its affinities to be rather with *Anser* than with the Bernacles.

Although the multiplication of generic terms which M. Alphéraky indulges in is, in our opinion, objectionable, it must not be supposed that we in any way condemn the whole work. The subject is evidently quite familiar to the author, and under the head of every species and subspecies a fund of information is afforded, much of which will be new to most ornithologists. It is, however, admitted in the Preface that, in spite of the large amount of material investigated and the mass of literature studied, so many questions are left open that the present work can only be regarded as a "preparation for future investigation," which it will, no doubt, greatly stimulate.

The value of this work is further increased by the excellent series of plates drawn by Mr. Frohawk.

61. '*Annals of Scottish Natural History*.'

[The Annals of Scottish Natural History. Nos. 53 & 54. January and April 1905.]

The principal ornithological feature of these two Numbers is the valuable paper (in two instalments) by Mr. W. Eagle Clarke, on the Birds of the Flannan Islands, or Seven

Hunters. Lying more than twenty miles west of the Island of Lewis, and forty miles to the north-east of St. Kilda, these remote and uninhabited islets have rarely been visited, even by naturalists, and Mr. Harvie-Brown's pioneer experiences in 1881 summed up our former knowledge of the fauna. In 1899, however, a lighthouse was completed on Eilean Mòr, the largest of the group, and thenceforth Mr. Harvie-Brown and Mr. Eagle Clarke regularly received schedules recording the occurrences of birds. These indicated that a stream of migration swept over the islands both in spring and autumn; for which reason Mr. Clarke and Mr. T. G. Laidlaw arranged to spend sixteen days on Eilean Mòr, from September 6th to 21st, in 1904. We have already been told of the remarkable acquisition of the Short-toed Lark (*cf. supra*, p. 115) and of the abundance of Lapland Buntings; but now a detailed and very interesting list of some eighty species of birds is furnished. One feature noted was a migration of Jack Snipes in "vast packs," and, from evidence up to the present, it appears to have been unusual; the stay of the birds was for barely more than a day. For good or for evil—chiefly the latter—a good deal has been written about St. Kilda, but the first instalment (pp. 75–80) of Notes on the Birds of that group of islets promises well. These notes are compiled by the Rev. J. B. Mackenzie from memoranda made by his father, who lived in St. Kilda from 1829–1843, and took a great interest in birds. There is no new information at first hand about the Great Auk. Among the general notes is an interesting record by Mr. Eagle Clarke of the nesting of the Storm-Petrel on the Bass Rock, this being the first instance for the *east* side of the mainland of Great Britain. The occurrence was erroneously attributed to the Fork-tailed Petrel by the Rev. H. N. Bonar ('Field,' Nov. 19, 1904), and was received with deserved scepticism.—H. S.

62. 'The Auk.'

[The Auk. A Quarterly Journal of Ornithology. Vol. xxii. Nos. 1 & 2, January and April 1905.]

The first paper in our contemporary is by Professor Wells

W. Cooke, and treats of the Routes of Bird-Migration with reference to Mexico and Texas, Florida and Yucatan, and some "inferential" routes. In this subject the author of the 'Report on Bird Migration in the Mississippi Valley' established a reputation some seventeen years ago. Naturally, however, its interest is mainly for American ornithologists, whereas students on this side of the water will also be attracted by Mr. Austin F. Clark's investigation (pp. 134-140) of the migration in the western Atlantic of such Waders as the American Golden Plover, Spotted Sandpiper, and Yellowshank. The facts adduced are of great interest and the questions still unsolved merit careful consideration. Mr. Ruthven Deane contributes letters, hitherto unpublished: one from Swainson to Audubon, one from the great ornithologist himself, and several to him from John James Abert. Deserving of attention is an article by Dr. Jonathan Dwight, Jr., on plumage-wear in its relation to pallid subspecies; and one of the author's pertinent remarks, on roasting and bleaching respectively, is that "no one would think of calling a sunburnt man a subspecies, but the sunburnt plumage of the breeding bird is a fair mark for subspecific description!" Mrs. Irene C. Wheelock gives her experiences on the regurgitative feeding of nestlings, and there is no lack of contentious matter in the seventeen pages devoted to the subject. Summer Birds in the Bahamas is the title of an interesting paper, accompanied by a map and photogravures, by Mr. Glover M. Allen. A residence in Montana has enabled a member of the B. O. U., Mr. E. S. Cameron, to give an admirable account of the nesting of the Golden Eagle on the scoriaceous rocks in the "bad lands." Photogravures shew the site of the nest, the contents, and the young up to the time that they are able to fly, with many details of the habits of the parent birds; in fact we do not remember to have read elsewhere such an attractive life-history of this fine Raptor. The pity is that in Montana the bird has been almost exterminated by poisoned carcasses set for wolves and *coyotes*; and poison, we may remark, has been a very important cause of the approaching extinction of the Golden Eagle in Ireland.—H. S.

63. *Evans on the Birds of Cambridgeshire.*

[Handbook to the Natural History of Cambridgeshire. Edited by J. E. Marr, Sc.D., F.R.S., and A. E. Shipley, M.A., F.R.S. Cambridge: University Press, 1904. Sm. Svo. 260 pp.]

This Handbook, prepared for the meeting of the British Association at Cambridge in 1904, was designed for the help of those who desired to make observations in the surrounding district. The names of the Editors are quite sufficient guarantee for the general accuracy of the various contributions which make up the work, some twenty in number.

The twenty-five pages which relate to the Birds of Cambridgeshire were written by Evans, who, after some short introductory remarks, comments on 14 species which have either been already exterminated within the area of the county or are now extremely rare. Savi's Warbler became extinct about 1849, but the Short-eared Owl and Montagu's Harrier still occasionally breed in the county, while the Bittern is a stray visitor. The Grey-Lag Goose, formerly an abundant breeder, has ceased to nest in the county since 1773, but both the Spotted and Baillon's Crakes have bred in Cambridgeshire more recently. The Bustard is now a *very* scarce straggler, though in 1856 one undoubtedly visited Burwell Fen, where the present President of the B. O. U. "saw it with his own eyes." The Ruff again, formerly so abundant, no longer breeds in Cambridgeshire, while the Black-tailed Godwit and the Black Tern must be placed in the same category.

To the remarks on the rarer species is added a full list of the recorded birds of Cambridgeshire, among which perhaps the most remarkable is the Black-browed Albatross (*Diomedea melanophrys*), an example of which was taken alive near Linton in 1897 (see 'Ibis,' 1897, p. 625).—P. L. S.

64. *Flower on the Zoological Gardens of Gizeh.*

[Government of Egypt, Public Works Department. Zoological Gardens, Gizeh, near Cairo. Report for the Year 1904 (Sixth Annual Report) by the Director. Cairo, 1905.]

Captain Flower's Report gives, as in former years, a very

satisfactory account of the progress of this well-managed Institution. The visitors in 1904 were 64,711, and the receipts at the gates £E1388, shewing a considerable advance in both cases. Mammals are naturally the most prominent objects in the Gardens, but birds are also numerous. The three Shoe-bills (*Baleniceps rex*) are, we are told, still thriving.

Six additions are made to the list of birds "observed wild in the Gardens" given in former reports—namely, *Monticola cyanus*, *Muscicapa grisola*, *M. collaris*, *Coccothraustes vulgaris*, *Cypselus apus*, and *Caprimulgus europæus*.

65. *Hagmann on Brazilian Birds.*

[As Aves Brasilicas mencionadas e descriptas nas obras de Spix (1825), de Wied (1830-33), Burmeister (1854), e Pelzeln (1874), na sua nomenclatura scientifica actual. Chave synonymica organisada pelo Dr. G. Hagmann. Bol. Mus. Goeldi, iv. p. 198 (1904).]

After an explanatory Preface by Dr. Goeldi, Dr. Hagmann gives the names of the birds described in the four principal works on Brazilian Ornithology (those of Spix, Neuwied, Burmeister, and v. Pelzeln), together with the corresponding names employed in the British Museum Catalogue for each of the species. These, as a rule, appear to be correctly stated, and the result cannot fail to be useful to students of the birds of Brazil.

66. *Huber on the Nest of Ostinops decumanus.*

[Ajuda à proposito dos ninhos do Japu. Dr. J. Huber. Bol. Mus. Goeldi, iv. p. 471 (1904).]

This is a further contribution to the controversy on the question of what materials the nests of the Japu (*Ostinops decumanus*) are made (see 'Ibis,' 1903, p. 633, and 1904, p. 155). It does not, however, appear to alter materially the results already arrived at in the previous papers on this subject.

67. 'Irish Naturalist.'

[The Irish Naturalist. A Monthly Journal of General Irish Natural History. Vol. xiii. Nos. 1-12 (1904). Eason & Sons, Dublin.]

Among the notes on ornithology may be mentioned

Mr. D. C. Campbell's account of the Dunlin, a species which nests in far greater abundance in the north-west of Ireland than is generally supposed. There are several records of the visits of Waxwings to Ulster; four Snow-Geese were noticed on the Moy in February—survivors, perhaps, of those previously seen in Co. Longford and Co. Mayo; and a second Irish example of the Little Crake was obtained in Co. Kildare. Mr. Ussher's paper on the birds of the Shannon valley is supplemented by some notes from the Lough Derg portion by Mr. Anthony Parker, who recently found the Garden-Warbler nesting there. An occurrence of the Stone-Curlew—a rare bird for Ireland—is recorded; a female Turtle-Dove was shot with eggs in her ovary, the nearest approach to breeding in the sister island for more than half a century, while only two instances are reported in all.—H. S.

68. *Lameere on Sexual Ornaments in Birds.*

[L'évolution des Ornements Sexuels. Par Aug. Lameere. Bull. Ac. Belgique, 1904, pp. 1327-1364.]

This paper sets forth arguments, based chiefly on birds and insects, against Darwin's views on Sexual Selection, coupled with those of Wallace. The author considers that all selection is "Natural," and that the aim of secondary sexual characters is utility in some form, whether for protective purposes, use in combat with foes, or stirring up the passions of the female. These sexual characters are often most pronounced in the early stages of the development of a species, males and females becoming more alike later. If the selection was "sexual," this would hardly be the case, nor would the females, with individually different ideas of beauty, be certain to choose the male most calculated to ensure the survival of the fittest.

69. *Leverkühn on the three Naumanns and their Works.*

[Biographisches über die drei Naumanns, und Bibliographisches über Ihre Werke, nebst den Vorreden zur zweite Auflage der Naturgeschichte der Vögel Deutschlands. Bearbeitet von Paul Leverkühn. Mit 8 nur

für diesen Sonderabdruck hergestellten Tafeln. Gera-Untermhaus: Köthen, 1904.]

This, if we understand rightly, is a reprint of the Preface to the first volume of the new edition of Naumann's 'Vögel Deutschlands,' which was commenced in 1897, and has lately been brought to a conclusion under the title 'Naturgeschichte der Vögel Mittel-Europas.' The Editor of the new edition is Dr. Hennicke, of Gera, who has been assisted in his long and arduous task by many of the leading German ornithologists. We have already noticed ('Ibis,' 1904, p. 146) a valuable contribution of Dr. W. Blasius to this great work. Dr. Leverkühn's Preface is mainly of a historical nature, and contains amongst much other information a genealogical tree of the Naumann family, which shews plainly how the three ornithologists, Johann Andreas Naumann, Johann Friedrich Naumann, and Carl Andreas Naumann, were related, and gives many particulars about their lives and pursuits.

Eight plates prepared specially for this reprint illustrate the quaint personality of the Naumanns, and represent the "Denkmal" recently put up in Köthen as a memorial of them.

70. *Lönberg on Birds from Tianshan.*

[Short Notes on a Collection of Birds from Tianshan. By Einar Lönberg. With 1 plate. Arch. f. Zool. ii. No. 9. Upsala, 1905.]

The district of Tianshan in Central Asia has not been much worked by Western ornithologists, and Dr. Lönberg is to be congratulated on having secured a series embracing examples of 79 species from that quarter. The exact locality of the collection is stated to be "Baimgol, which is on a tributary of the River Tekes*, and the mountain Chatengri." The list for the most part contains the names of well-known species, but will be useful to students of distribution. *Falco subbuteo cyanescens* is a new subspecies of Hobby, and *Lyrurus tetrix mongolicus* a new subspecies of the Black Grouse. The chick of *Tetraogallus himalayensis* is well figured.

* The River Tekes is a branch of the Ili, which flows into Lake Balkash. It is in Chinese Turkestan.

71. *North on a new Genus of Passerine Birds.*

[Insectivorous Birds. A new Genus of the Order Passeres. By Alfred J. North. Agr. Gaz. of New South Wales, xvi. p. 247 (March 1905).]

The proposed new genus *Oreoscopus* is based upon the *Sericornis gutturalis* of De Vis (Pr. R. Soc. Queensl. vi. p. 244, 1889), which Mr. North regards as quite different from the typical form of that genus. He likewise describes the nest and eggs from specimens lately received by the Australian Museum from N.E. Queensland. Text-figures are given of the bird and the nest.

72. *Oberholser on a new Sylviella.*

[Description of a new *Sylviella*. By Henry C. Oberholser. Smiths. Misc. Coll. ii. p. 373.]

The "new subspecies," called "*Sylviella rufescens ochrocarra*," is based on a specimen from Danaraland obtained by C. J. Anderson (corr. C. J. Andersson?), now in the U.S. National Museum. Is not this *Sylviella pallida* Alexander ('Ibis,' 1900, p. 71, pl. i. fig. 1)?—at any rate, that species, which was discovered by Capt. Alexander on the Upper Zambesi, should have been referred to.

73. *Ogilvie-Grant's Guide to the Bird-Gallery of the British Museum.*

[Guide to the Gallery of Birds in the Department of Zoology of the British Museum (Natural History). (With 24 Plates and 7 Illustrations.) London: Printed by Order of the Trustees, 1905. 1 vol. 4to. 228 pp.]

There is no doubt, we believe, that the series of specimens of Birds mounted for public exhibition in the British Museum at South Kensington is unrivalled in extent and variety. That of the Museum für Naturkunde in Berlin is also excellent, but as regards the number and rarity of its contents must yield to its rival in this country. Though the work of completing the series and of replacing the older specimens is still going on, the general arrangement of the Bird-gallery at South Kensington has been practically finished for some time, and a "Guide" to its contents was much called for. To no one could the task of compiling such a Guide have

been better assigned than to Mr. W. R. Ogilvie-Grant, the Member of the Zoological Department who "carried out the arrangement of the Gallery in its present form."

Entering the Bird-gallery from the Great Hall the visitor will find the lowest forms of bird-life exhibited on the right-hand side, and the highest on the left, so that he may begin either at the bottom of the series and go upwards, or at the top of the series and pass downwards, as he pleases.

The "Guide" takes the former route, and, commencing with the lowest members of the Avian series, proceeds upwards through each of the 31 Orders and 147 Families into which the Class of Birds is divided, and ends with the "Passeriformes," which is the highest and most specialized Order of the whole Class. The specimens exhibited are lodged in 83 cases, and are labelled with numbers from 1 to 2810. The corresponding numbers in the "Guide" are printed in large black type, so that there is no difficulty in referring to them. The letterpress of the "Guide" will be found to contain not only remarks on the essential characters of the birds referred to, but also information as to their habits, distribution, nests, eggs, and other particulars. Thus, as the series of specimens is very nearly complete, we have in the "Guide" a well-written and popular history of the whole Class of Birds carefully brought together from different authorities. To say that such a compilation of all the principal facts known concerning the enormous Class of Birds, which numbers some 13,000 or 14,000 species, is free from errors would, of course, not be true, but as we turn over the pages of the "Guide" we are able to notice but few mistakes, and these mostly of a trivial character. On the whole, we may well congratulate the author on having produced a very useful piece of work which shews a wide acquaintance with every part of his subject.

After the description of the specimens exhibited in the systematic series in the Bird-gallery, which is illustrated by 23 photographic plates prepared by the skilful hands of Mr. R. B. Lodge, and occupies 136 pages, comes a description of the well-known and much-admired series of mounted

groups of British Birds and their nests. These are already 159 in number, and are constantly receiving fresh accessions. Owing to want of space it has not been found possible to arrange them in exact scientific order, but they are numbered consecutively, and are described in the "Guide" under corresponding numbers. We need not enlarge upon the charms of this portion of the collection, which is well known to all lovers of Bird-life that visit the building in South Kensington, and is certainly that part most appreciated by the general public.

In concluding our notice of this work we must express our regret that it was thought necessary to issue it in so large a size. A quarto volume of any bulk is an awkward thing to hold in the hand, especially when walking about a gallery in order to examine the objects described. When a second edition is called for we hope that it will be found possible to print it in octavo, in correspondence with some of the other "Guides" recently issued, even if this should somewhat diminish the effect of Mr. Lodge's illustrative plates.

74. *Oustalet on the Birds of Cambogia, Laos, Annam, and Tonquin.*

[Les Oiseaux du Cambodge, du Laos, de l'Annam et du Tonquin. Nouv. Arch. d. Mus. d'Hist. Nat. sér. 4, t. v. (1904).]

We have now received the second portion of M. Oustalet's account of the birds of the French territories in Indo-China, which completes this useful piece of work (*cf.* 'Ibis,' 1900, p. 557). In the first half of the memoir 78 species were recorded from these countries, in the second half we find 107 noticed, making together a total of 185. No new species are described in the present section, which relates mostly to the Passeres. Coloured figures are given of *Pitta annamensis*, *Dryonastes maesii*, and *D. lugens*.

75. *Picchi on a Collection of Italian Birds.*

[Elenco degli Uccelli conservati nella sua Collezione Ornitologica Italiana al 29 Febbraio 1904, con notizie intorno alla Distribuzione e

Nidificazione in Italia. Per Cecilia Picchi. Ornith. xii. (1903-1904) pp. 381-562.]

This extract from our contemporary consists of a full list of the author's collection, with notes on the distribution and nesting of the birds in Italy and its islands, dates of capture, and native names. It will be found useful as a guide by any naturalist who intends to visit the country.

76. *Picchi on Heterochroism.*

[Picchi, Cecilia. Anomalie nel colorito del plumaggio osservato in 85 individui della mia collezione ornitologica Italiana, e breve cenno sull'eterocrosi. *Avicula*, vii. & viii. Siena, 1904. 35 pp.]

This is an essay on heterochroism or variations in colour in the plumage of birds, of which the author appears to be a careful student. It is accompanied by a description of the variations in 85 specimens of 61 species.

77. *Poche on Moehring's 'Genera of Birds.'*

[Ein bisher nicht berücksichtigtes zoologisches Werk aus dem Jahre 1758, in dem die Grundsätze der binären Nomenklatur befolgt sind. Von Franz Poche, Berlin. *Zool. Anz.* xxvii. pp. 495 (1904).]

Moehring's original edition of his '*Avium Genera*,' published at Bremen in 1752, is universally allowed to be pre-Linnaean and outside the pale of binomial nomenclature. But Herr Poche, who appears to be an ardent supporter of the new school of unlimited priority, has discovered that a Dutch edition of Moehring's '*Genera*' (edited by Nozeman and Vossmaer) was published at Amsterdam in 1758, which, in Herr Poche's opinion, brings that work within the scope of the binomial system. To those who (like ourselves) take Linnaeus's *twelfth* edition of the '*Systema Naturæ*' as the proper date of the commencement of binomial nomenclature this is not of much consequence. But to those who begin with the tenth edition (1752) this is an awkward discovery, although we are of opinion that in this case, as in other similar resuscitations of long-forgotten works (of which one or two copies only are known to exist), the claims of priority should be absolutely ignored.

If Herr Poche's views were adopted a large number of changes in the names of our most familiar birds would have to be made, amongst which we may specify the following:—

Names at present in use.	To be changed to Moehring's name.
<i>Cusuarius.</i>	<i>Cela.</i>
<i>Plotus.</i>	<i>Ptynx.</i>
<i>Phaëthon.</i>	<i>Lepturus.</i>
<i>Fregata.</i>	<i>Atagen.</i>
<i>Fratercula.</i>	<i>Spheniscus.</i>
<i>Balearica.</i>	<i>Ciconia.</i>
<i>Scolopax.</i>	<i>Rusticula.</i>
<i>Hiaticula.</i>	<i>Squatarola.</i>
<i>Calidris.</i>	<i>Cinclus.</i>
<i>Stercorarius.</i>	<i>Buphagus.</i>
<i>Didus.</i>	<i>Raphus.</i>
<i>Momotus.</i>	<i>Merula.</i>
<i>Ægithalus.</i>	<i>Orites.</i>
<i>Centropus.</i>	<i>Nisus.</i>

But this is merely a sample of the confusion that would follow from the recognition of the Dutch edition of Moehring's 'Genera Avium' as valid in binomial nomenclature. A large number of well-known terms must, according to Herr Poche, be rejected as having been previously employed by Moehring in a different sense. For example, *Totanus*, *Bucco*, *Colinus*, *Erithacus*, *Merula*, and *Buteo* must all be replaced by other names. For "*Pyrrhocorax*" the new generic term "*Hellmayria*" is proposed, as Moehring applied the former name to *Tchitrea paradisi*! We can really hardly believe that anyone, except those affected by *furor prioritatis* of the most serious character, will follow Herr Poche's lead in this matter.

78. *Richmond on the Birds described in Vroeg's Catalogue.*

[Notes on the Birds described by Pallas in the "Adumbratiuncula" of Vroeg's Catalogue. Smiths. Misc. Coll. ii. pt. 3, p. 342 (1905).]

In this paper Mr. Richmond endeavours to decipher the "Adumbratiunculæ" of Pallas attached to Adrian Vroeg's Sale-list of 1764 described below (p. 496), and to determine the correct names of the 38 species mentioned in them

according to modern nomenclature. As Vroeg's Sale-list was not published until after the issue of the twelfth edition of Linnæus's 'Systema,' it follows that those who begin their nomenclature with that edition need not trouble themselves about the matter. But even those who, like Mr. Richmond, commence binomial terminology from 1758 should hesitate, we think, to follow his lead in accepting the validity of the names of Vroeg's Sale-list. There is no proof whatever that the "Adumbratiunculæ" were published at all; they are pagged separately from the "Sale-list." All we know is that a printed copy of them is attached to Linnæus's copy of the Sale-list, and that it was probably sent to Linnæus by Pallas. But it is impossible to say whether the "Adumbratiunculæ" were issued along with other copies of the Sale-list, or were intended by the author for Linnæus's private use only. Therefore it would be unwise to supersede such well-known names as *Muscicapa grisola* by *Muscicapa striata*, and *Melizophilus undatus* by *Melizophilus cantillans*, &c., as suggested by Mr. Richmond.

79. Ridgway on new Tropical-American Birds.

[Descriptions of Seven new Species and Subspecies of Birds from Tropical America. By Robert Ridgway. Smiths. Misc. Coll. ii. p. 112 (1904).]

Diagnoses are given of seven new forms included in the fourth part of Mr. Ridgway's 'Birds of North and Middle America,' which is not yet published. They are termed *Myiadestes genibarbis cherriei* (Haiti); *Catharus fuscater sancte-martæ* (Santa Marta district); *Cichlherminia coryi* (probably Martinique); *Cinctocerthia ruficauda tenebrosa* (St. Vincent); *C. r. pavidula* (Lesser Antilles); *Mimus gilvus guatemalensis* (Guatemala and Vera Cruz); and *M. g. tolimensis* (Tolima).

80. Ridgway on the Birds of North and Middle America.

[The Birds of North and Middle America. By Robert Ridgway. Bull. U.S. Nat. Mus. No. 50. Part III. Washington, 1904. 8vo. 801 pp.]

In the third volume of this important work Mr. Ridgway

continues his account of the Oscines of North and Middle America, and treats of the birds of the families Motacillidæ, Hirundinidæ, Ampelidæ, Ptilogonatidæ, Dulidæ, Virconidæ, Laniidæ, Corvidæ, Paridæ, Sittidæ, Certhiidæ, Troglodytidæ, Cinclidæ, Chamæidæ, and Sylviidæ. Most of these terms are familiar to us, but Dulidæ is a new family-name made for the reception of the peculiar type *Dulus* (or Palm-Chat) of the island of Haiti, which it is certainly not easy to fit in with any other known form. The "Ptilogonatidæ," as Mr. Ridgway calls them, are also separated from the Ampelidæ with which they have been hitherto associated. Mr. Ridgway writes of them as follows :—

"They are related to the Wax-wings (Ampelidæ) and have usually been placed with them, but they differ in their rounded wings with well-developed tenth and shortened ninth primaries, their well-developed rictal bristles, and the different character of the frontal feathers. Their habits, however, are said to be very similar." In the Ptilogonatidæ are placed the genera *Ptilogonys*, *Phainopepla*, and *Phainoptila*. But Mr. Ridgway is doubtful whether the last-named genus truly belongs to this group. "So far as the adult is concerned," he says, "it might easily be referred to the Turdidæ, but the young have the plumage absolutely plain-coloured and the acetarsium distinctly scutellate."

The "Chamæidæ," consisting of the single genus *Chamæa*, is another example of a peculiar Oscinine Family of North America. The form has been placed sometimes with the Tits, sometimes with the Wrens. Mr. Ridgway now solves this uncertainty by attesting its full family-rank. Mr. Lucas, who has made a careful investigation of its osseous structure, has come to the conclusion that "in its cranial characters it is much like *Psaltriparus*, while the shoulder-girdle is slightly and the pelvic girdle decidedly Wren-like." "Wren-tit" is therefore a very appropriate name for this little bird, which has hitherto enjoyed the distinction of constituting the only Family of the Passerine Order peculiar to the Nearctic Region.

It was until lately supposed that there was only one form of *Chamæa*; but the more acute eyes of modern observers

have enabled them to separate the old *Chamaea fasciata* into four "subspecies," which are distributed over different districts of Western North America.

The characters of the new genera, species, and subspecies introduced in the present volume have been already published by Mr. Ridgway in the 'Proceedings of the Biological Society of Washington' for 1903 (see 'Ibis,' 1904, p. 301).

The number of species and subspecies treated in the present volume is about 450. Some 800 others have been described in the two previous volumes, and, according to the calculations made by the author, about 1875 species more remain. This would bring up the total number of species and subspecies of Birds in North and Middle America, according to Mr. Ridgway's estimate, to about 3125. We fear, therefore, that Mr. Ridgway has still a very heavy task before him. Although we may not agree with all the author's views on classification, we must all admire the thoroughness and accuracy of his work, and trust that it may be brought to an early conclusion.

81. *Rules of Zoological Nomenclature.*

[Règles Internationales de la Nomenclature Zoologique adoptées par les Congrès Internationaux de Zoologie. International Rules of Zoological Nomenclature. Internationale Regeln der zoologischen Nomenclatur. Paris: F. R. de Rudeval, 1905. 8vo. 64 pp.]

In the "Avant-Propos" of this Memoir, which is written in French, and is signed by Prof. Blanchard, the various steps taken by the Congress of Zoology for the preparation of the "International Rules of Zoological Nomenclature" are shortly but plainly set forth. The Committee on the subject was originally established at the Congress of Berlin in 1895, and the Code adopted was finally elaborated by MM. Blanchard (of Paris), von Machrenthal (of Berlin), and Stiles (of Washington) at Berne, after the Congress held in that city in August 1904. After the Introduction follow the Rules in three languages—French, English, and German,—the first of the three texts being stated to be the most authoritative in case of any dispute.

We cannot criticize the Rules at length in this journal. Every zoologist should make himself acquainted with them, and must settle for himself how far he is disposed to obey them. We may, however, remark that it appears to us that far too much weight is allowed in them to the claims of "Priority," which is a doctrine much in fashion at the present time. "Priority" is an excellent thing and worthy of all due respect, but we do not see why it should supersede the rules of the Latin grammar, as would be the case if the new code were implicitly followed. Nor, in our opinion, should "Priority" be held sufficient to justify the usage of an obviously incorrect term, such as the application of the specific name "*capensis*" to a South-American bird. In such cases "Priority" should give way to Common Sense. A third point in which the claims of "Priority" should not be recognised is in the case in which the specific name of an animal has subsequently become also its generic name—especially now that subspecies are coming into more frequent use: "*Pica pica*" is bad, but *Pica pica pica*, *Coccothraustes coccothraustes coccothraustes*, and such alliterations are, in our opinion, very objectionable. It is far better to throw "Priority" aside in such cases, and to employ the next earliest name, as enacted in the original Stricklandian Code.

82. *Schalow on Arctic Birds.*

[*Fauna Arctica. Die Vögel der Arktis. Von Herman Schalow, in Berlin. Jena: G. Fischer, 1904. Pp. 288.*]

The Arctic Ornis is of special interest to us in England, as most of the birds in the List are also to be found, at least occasionally, in the British Islands. It is therefore with much pleasure that we receive a separate copy of "Die Vögel der Arktis," which forms part of the fourth volume of the 'Fauna Arctica,' now being prepared in Germany and edited by Dr. Römer and Dr. Schaudinn. The name of the author of the Birds of Arctis is a sufficient guarantee to us that this memoir has been carefully prepared and is well worthy of notice.

After a well-written Introduction, in which the whole

subject is explained and discussed, we have a long chronological list of the literature of Arctic Birds, which begins with Martens in 1675 and ends with Proctor and Saunders in 1904. Omissions may be discovered in this, but it seems to be nearly complete and is followed by a very useful index, by which the special authorities on the different localities may be found without delay. This is followed by a nominal list of the species of the "North-Polar Ice-Sea" and its islands, and then by a discussion of the exact range and time of occurrence of the 270 species and subspecies attributed to it. Every species, whether it belongs to the Palearctic or Nearctic Avifauna, is fully considered, and the authorities for its occurrence in Arctis are fully stated. We may regret that the author should call the Grebes "*Colymbus*" and misspell "*Otocorys*"; but such is the fashion of the day, and we submit to it with a slight murmur.

After the remarks on the species and subspecies, a list is given of those met with in each separate locality—Bear Island, Spitsbergen, Franz-Joseph Land, Nova Zembla, Kolguef, Dologol, Waigatsch, the New-Siberian Islands, &c., finishing with those of Greenland and Jan Mayen. This is likewise a very useful feature in the memoir, which we can commend to the attention of all those interested in Palearctic Birds.

The final chapter of comparison between the Arctic Ornis and the Antarctic Ornis only serves to shew that they are quite different. It was until lately supposed that *Sterna macrura* was to be met with in both of them, but (alas!) the southern bird has recently been converted into a new "sub-species" *Sterna macrura antistropa*!

83. *Seabra on Birds from Angola.*

[(1) Mammíferos e Aves da Exploração de F. Newton em Angola, por A. E. de Seabra. Journ. de Scienc. Lisboa, ser. 2, tom. vii. p. 106. (1905).

(2) Aves de Angola de Exploração de Francisco Newton. *Op. cit.* p. 118.]

The well-known explorer and collector Francis Newton has sent from Angola to the Museum of the Academia

Polytechnica of Oporto two collections of Birds, of which we have here the lists, with the localities at which the specimens were obtained and a few other notes. Twenty-one known species of birds are enumerated in the first paper, and forty-six in the second. The specimens were obtained mostly in the vicinity of Golungo Alto.

84. *Shelley's 'Birds of Africa.'*

[The Birds of Africa, comprising all the Species which occur in the Ethiopian Region. By G. E. Shelley, F.Z.S., F.R.G.S., &c. Vol. IV, pt. 1. London: Porter, 1905.]

In the last-published volume of 'Birds of Africa' (see 'Ibis,' 1902, p. 670) Capt. Shelley finished the Fringillidæ, except one species (*Linurgus concolor*), which heads the present contribution. The first part of the fourth volume is entirely devoted to the Weaver-birds (Ploceidæ), a numerous and important group in the Ethiopian Ornis. Capt. Shelley arranges them in three subfamilies—the Viduinæ, Estreldinæ, and Ploceinæ. The first two of these subfamilies are treated in the present volume—the Viduinæ containing 7 genera and 55 species, and the Estreldinæ 16 genera and 112 species.

One new genus is instituted, *Chorestridu*, for *Pytelia ansorgei* Hartert and *P. capistrata* Hartl. Seven coloured plates, drawn by Grönvold, ornament this handsome volume, and make us better acquainted with the following species:—*Pyromelana ludoensis*, *Coliuspasser soror*, *Urobrachya zanzibarica*, *U. affinis*, *Anomalospiza rendalli*, *Estrelda rhodopyga*, *E. vinacea*, *Coccopygia bocagei*, *Lagonosticta cinereo-vinacea*, *L. rhodoparia*, *Pytelia citerior*, *Pyrenestes minor*, *Cryptospiza jacksoni*, and *C. shelleyi*.

85. *Sherborn on the Birds of Vroeg's Catalogue.*

[The new Species of Birds in Vroeg's Catalogue, 1764. By C. Davies Sherborn. Smiths. Misc. Coll. ii. p. 334 (1905).]

In 1764 Adrian Vroeg printed at The Hague a sale-list of a collection of birds, of which the only existing copy known

is in Linnæus's collection of books in the Library of the Linnean Society of London. This copy of the sale-list is accompanied by a separately paged portion called "Adumbratiunculæ," in which 38 new species of Birds are described in Latin. These new names were attributed by Mr. Sherborn in the 'Index Animalium' to Vroeg, but it has been lately shewn that the great Russian naturalist Pallas (then of the age of 23) was the author of them. Mr. Sherborn now reprints the "Adumbratiunculæ." They are, of course, of much interest, but those who (like ourselves) begin their binomial nomenclature with the 12th edition of the 'Systema Naturæ' (1760) will not adopt them as valid, even if they could be certainly referred to determinable species (see under "Richmond" above, p. 490).

86. *Shufeldt on Classification.*

[An Arrangement of the Families and the higher Groups of Birds. By R. W. Shufeldt. Amer. Nat. xxxviii. pp. 838-857, 6 figs.]

This contribution by Dr. Shufeldt to the study of taxonomy carries us through a series of Orders, Supersuborders, Suborders, and Superfamilies to the Families, after the author's well-known style. It is based on Palæontology, Comparative Morphology, Oology, and Nidification, not forgetting Pterylography, but does not differ strikingly from such classifications as that of Fürbringer, except that Dr. Shufeldt denies that birds can be divided into two subclasses.

87. *Stone on Birds from Mount Sanhedrin, California.*

[On a Collection of Birds and Mammals from Mount Sanhedrin, California. By Witmer Stone. With Field-notes by A. S. Bunnell. Proc. R. Acad. Sc. Phil., July 1904 (p. 576).]

The collection of Birds was made by Mr. Bunnell during two trips in the months of May, June, and July 1897 and in 1899, to Lierlie's Ranch, alt. 2100 feet, while Mount Sanhedrin rises to about 5000. It contains examples of 56 species, all of which may be regarded as breeding there, while 33 others are added from Mr. Bunnell's observation. *Calypte anna* and *Selasphorus alleni* were the only two

Humming-Birds met with, but both were "common." *Cathartes aura* was found "everywhere." Dippers (*Cinclus mexicanus*) were "very common." Of *Chamaea fasciata* a few were met with "in the bush."

88. *Van Oort on the Osteology of the Tail in Birds.*

[Beitrag zur Osteologie der Vogelschwanzes. Inaugural-Dissertation des philosophischen Fakultät des Universität Bern zur Erlangung der Doctorwürde. By Dr. Eduard Daniël Van Oort in Leiden. 143 pp., 5 pls.]

We are glad to have an opportunity of noticing this careful paper by Dr. van Oort on the Osteology of the Tail in Birds, though it is impossible in our restricted space to do justice to the details, which must be left for study to the individual reader. Not only does the author give us the results of his own work upon the rich collection of skeletons in the Leyden Museum, but he also furnishes us with a compendium of the researches of former writers on the subject, and adds a discussion upon the relationships of the various families as shown by the formation of the tail, drawing conclusions favourable to the more modern Classifications. Special sections are devoted to fossil and to recent birds, Ratite and Carinate, to the embryo of certain species, to the rectrices, and so forth; while a table is given of the number of vertebrae in each family and in representative species. Moreover, we observe throughout statements of the number of rectrices, which we have often endeavoured (and failed) to find elsewhere in particular cases.

XXXII.—*Obituary.*

EDWARD CAVENDISH TAYLOR and LEONARD HOWARD IRBY.

EDWARD CAVENDISH TAYLOR, one of the original members of the British Ornithologists' Union, was born on the 20th of January, 1831, the third and youngest son of Frederic Farmer Taylor, of Chyknell in the county of Salop, by his